Heavenly Children

The Little General

Prophet Muhammad (S)

1

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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The Little General

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

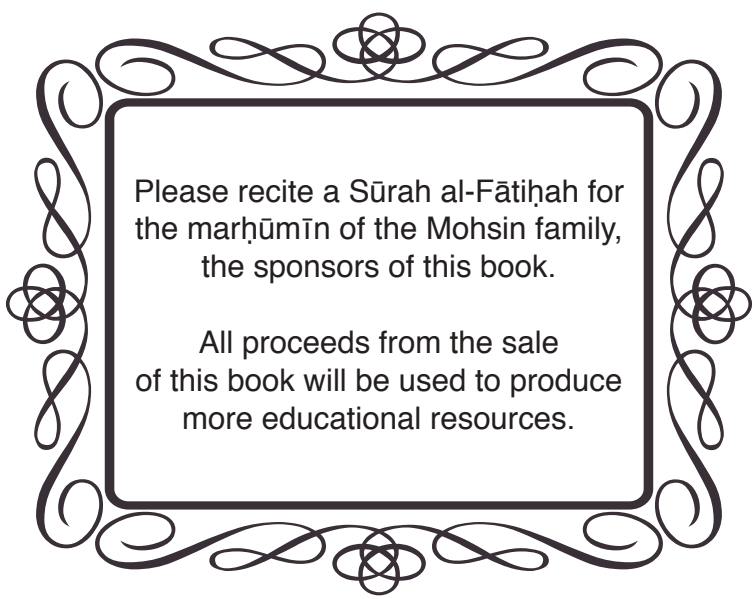
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

One day, Ahmad's Baba and Mama shared some exciting news with him.

“Ahmad, guess what? We are going on a very special trip, inshāʾAllāh!” Baba said.

“Yes,” Mama said, “we are going to visit the 14 Maʿsūmīn!”

“The 14 Maʿṣūmīn?” Ahmad asked. “Can you remind me who they are?”

“The fourteen Maʿsūmīn are our role models. They are Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa), and the twelve Imāms (ʿa)!” Mama said.

“But how are we going to visit them?” asked Ahmad. “Didn't Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) die?”

“We visit them by going to the places they are buried,” replied Baba. “Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) is buried in the city of Medina.”

“Was he born there, too?” asked Ahmad.

“No, he was born in the city of Mecca on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal , during the year of the elephant.”

“What's the year of the elephant?” asked Ahmad.

“During the year he was born, an evil man named Abraha wanted to destroy the Kaʿbah. He marched towards Mecca along with an army of elephants to ruin the Kaʿbah, but before he was able to do so, Allah sent birds to drop pebbles on the elephants, stopping them from destroying the Kaʿbah!”

“Woah!” Ahmad was amazed. An evil man stopped by a flock of birds! He thought that was incredible. “Tell me more about Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)!” he said.

Mama told him, “Prophet Muḥammad's mother's name was Āminah. She was a great woman. His father, ʿAbdullāh, passed away before he was born. For the first five years of his life, he was raised by a nurse named Ḥalīma. He was then returned to his mother, but she passed away when he was only six years old. His grandfather, ʿAbdul Muṭṭalib, took care of him for some time. After his grandfather passed away, his uncle, Abū Ṭālib, and his uncle's wife, Fāṭimah bint* Asad took care of him. They were just like his parents! Do you want to hear a story about Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) from his childhood?”

“Yes!” Ahmad replied eagerly, “Please tell me!”

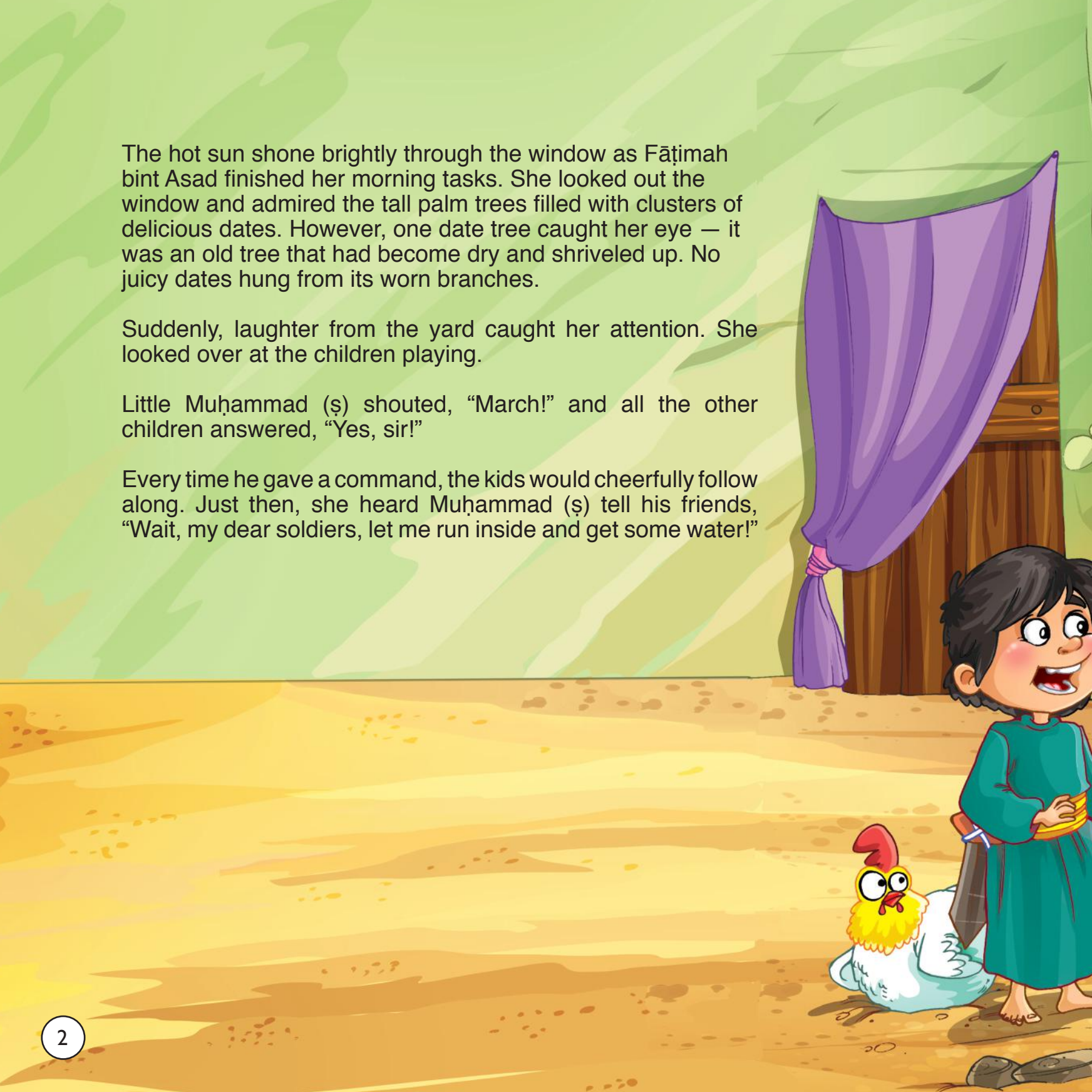
* Daughter of

The hot sun shone brightly through the window as Fāṭimah bint Asad finished her morning tasks. She looked out the window and admired the tall palm trees filled with clusters of delicious dates. However, one date tree caught her eye — it was an old tree that had become dry and shriveled up. No juicy dates hung from its worn branches.

Suddenly, laughter from the yard caught her attention. She looked over at the children playing.

Little Muḥammad (ṣ) shouted, “March!” and all the other children answered, “Yes, sir!”

Every time he gave a command, the kids would cheerfully follow along. Just then, she heard Muḥammad (ṣ) tell his friends, “Wait, my dear soldiers, let me run inside and get some water!”



As Muḥammad (ṣ) entered, Fāṭimah bint Asad could see he was very excited. She gave him a loving kiss on the forehead as he asked, “Mother, may I please have some water? My soldiers are thirsty!” He was always very polite.

Fāṭimah replied playfully, “Yes, sir! Right away!”

This made Muḥammad (ṣ) smile. He said, “You're my mom! You can't be my soldier!”

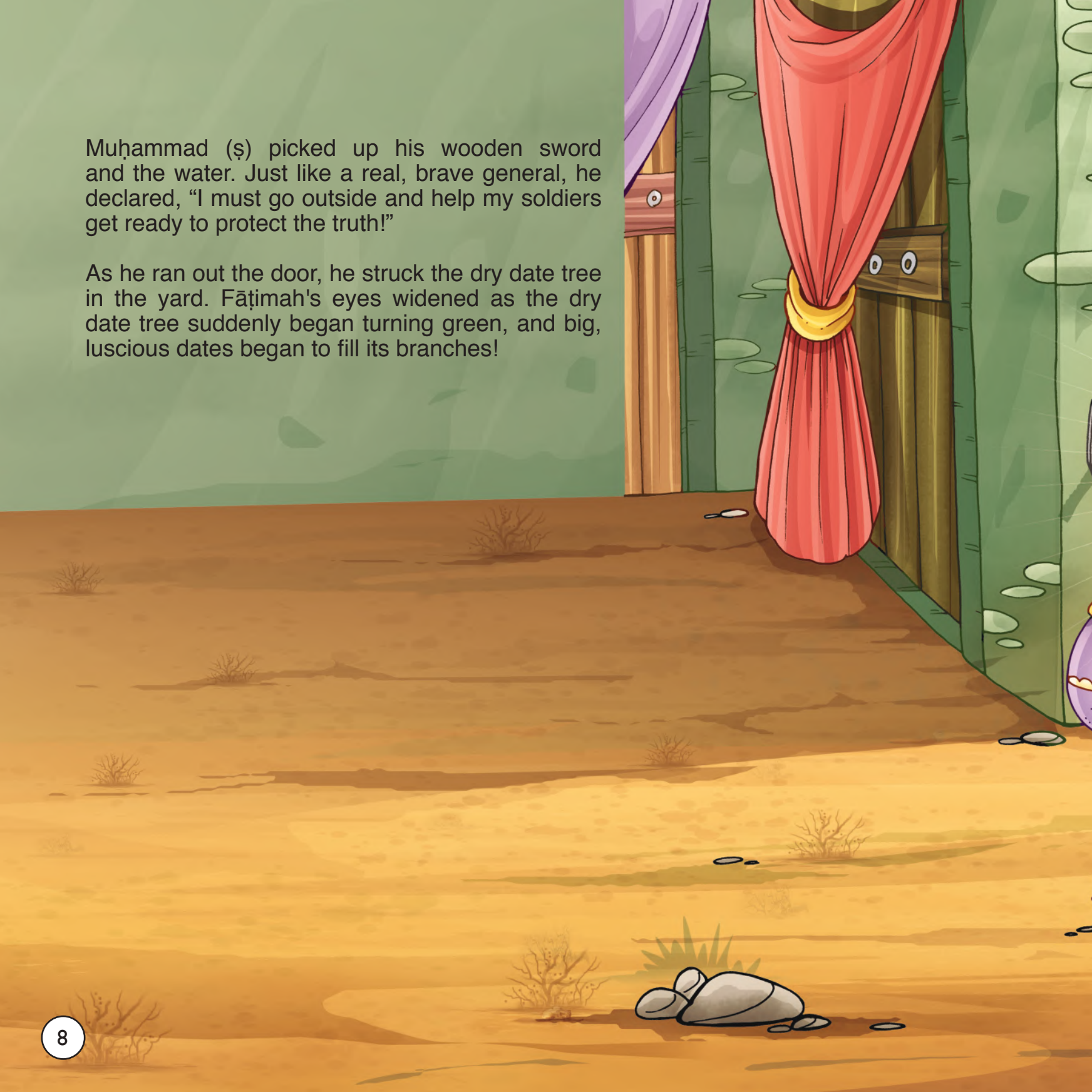
Fāṭimah bint Asad poured some water into a bowl and said, “If I cannot be your soldier, I can at least be your supporter, right?”

Muḥammad (ṣ) looked at his mother as he took the water and smiled.

“My supporter? Yes, that's a great idea!” They both laughed heartily.

Muḥammad (ṣ) picked up his wooden sword and the water. Just like a real, brave general, he declared, “I must go outside and help my soldiers get ready to protect the truth!”

As he ran out the door, he struck the dry date tree in the yard. Fāṭimah's eyes widened as the dry date tree suddenly began turning green, and big, luscious dates began to fill its branches!



Fāṭimah quickly walked towards the date tree and picked a date from it. She looked at it in wonder and tasted the date. Her eyes lit up! What a delicious date! It was better than any date she had ever tasted!

This wasn't the first time she had witnessed a miracle from Muḥammad (ṣ). Every time it was a wonderful surprise. She knew there was something very special about this boy. Being around him always strengthened her belief in Allah and gave her energy!

As she looked at the tree, she remembered how Muḥammad (ṣ) had lost his real mother at the young age of six. She thought to herself, *I'm so blessed to raise Muḥammad (ṣ) in my home!* Even though she had children of her own, Muḥammad (ṣ) was extra special. His foster mother, Ḥalīma, had also told Fāṭimah bint Asad about all the wonderful blessings and miracles that Muḥammad (ṣ) had brought to her home, even as an infant.

In fact, Ḥalīma had shared her own miracle story about a date tree. Ḥalīma had told her, “One day, I was passing through the desert with Muḥammad (ṣ) and stopped to feed him under a dry date tree. As I finished feeding him, we both fell asleep. When I woke up, I looked up and saw the most amazing sight! The tree behind us had become green again and was full of dates!”

Another time, Ḥalīma was outside with Muḥammad (ṣ), tending to the sheep, when one of the baby sheep fell and broke its leg. Muḥammad (ṣ) carefully walked over and gently touched the sheep's leg. She was shocked to see the leg instantly heal right before her eyes!

Suddenly, Muḥammad (ṣ) walked back inside and started calling out, “Mother! Mother!”

Fāṭimah turned towards him and hugged him lovingly as she said, “May my father and mother be sacrificed for you*, my son. How can I help you?”

Muḥammad (ṣ) replied, “My dearest mother, my soldiers need more energy. Can you please give me some dates so that I may feed my hungry soldiers?”

Fāṭimah 's eyes filled with tears as she kissed Muḥammad's (ṣ) divine head and held him tighter.

She replied, “Yes, sir!” and then quickly grabbed a basket and filled it with dates from the very tree Muḥammad (ṣ) had just brought back to life.

*In our ḥadīth and duʿās, when someone wants to show the highest level of loyalty and love towards another person, they use this expression.

Fāṭimah followed Muḥammad (ṣ) as he ran outside to his friends and handed out the dates. She raised her hands up and, filled with emotion, asked Allah to bless her with a child who could be Muḥammad's assistant and supporter in his divine purpose. We know her duʿāʾ was answered many years later, when she gave birth to Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), who became Prophet Muḥammad's loyal partner, supporter, and successor!

As Fāṭimah looked out at the children, she smiled contentedly and quietly walked back inside. Before entering the house, she turned back to look at the renewed date tree one more time. It seemed to outshine all the other trees, almost as if it felt honored at the very touch of young Muḥammad (ṣ).

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 15, P. 340

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

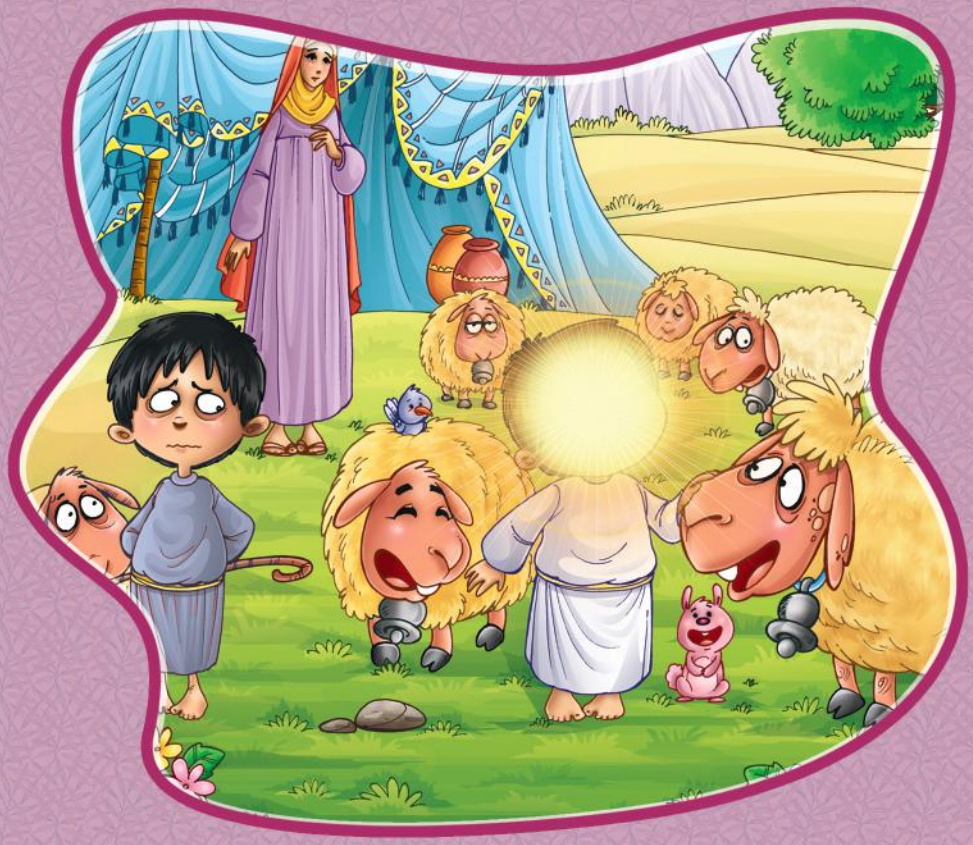
Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars



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